

# Preliminary evaluation of treatment efficacy of umbilical cord blood-derived mesenchymal stem cell-differentiated cardiac progenitor cells in a myocardial injury mouse model

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Received: 01 Nov 2015 / Accepted: 01 Dec 2015 / Published online: 25 Dec 2015

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**Abstract**— Recently, stem cell therapy has been investigated as a strategy to prevent or reverse damage to heart tissue. Although the results of cell transplantation in animal models and patients with myocardial ischemia are promising, the selection of the appropriate cell type remains an issue that requires consideration. In this study, we aimed to evaluate the effect of cardiac progenitor cell transplantation in a mouse model of myocardial ischemia. The cardiac progenitor cells used for transplantation were differentiated from umbilical cord blood mesenchymal stem cells. Animal models injected with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and healthy mice were used as controls. Cell grafting was assessed by changes in blood pressure and histological evaluation. After 14 days of transplantation, the results demonstrated that the blood pressure of transplanted mice was stable, similar to healthy mice, whereas it fluctuated in PBS-injected mice. Histological analysis showed that heart tissue had regenerated in transplanted mice, but remained damaged in PBS-injected mice. Furthermore, trichrome staining revealed that the transplanted mice did not generate significant amount of scar tissue compared with PBS-injected control mice. In addition, the cardiac progenitor cells managed to survive and integrate with local cells in cell-injected heart tissue 14 days after transplantation. Most importantly, the transplanted cells did not exhibit tumorigenesis. In conclusion, cardiac progenitor cell transplantation produced a positive effect in a mouse model of myocardial ischemia.

**Key words:** cardiac progenitor cells; mouse model; myocardial ischemia; stem cell; transplantation.

## INTRODUCTION

Myocardial infarction (MI) is a leading cause of death and disability worldwide. The heart has a limited capacity for self-repair, and the loss of cardiomyocytes leads to a permanent reduction in cardiac function. Stem cell-based therapies have emerged as a promising approach to regenerate the heart after MI. Mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) have been shown to differentiate into cardiac progenitor cells (CPCs) and improve cardiac function in animal models of MI. However, the selection of the appropriate cell type remains an issue that requires consideration. In this study, we aimed to evaluate the effect of cardiac progenitor cell transplantation in a mouse model of myocardial ischemia. The cardiac progenitor cells used for transplantation were differentiated from umbilical cord blood mesenchymal stem cells. Animal models injected with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) and healthy mice were used as controls. Cell grafting was assessed by changes in blood pressure and histological evaluation. After 14 days of transplantation, the results demonstrated that the blood pressure of transplanted mice was stable, similar to healthy mice, whereas it fluctuated in PBS-injected mice. Histological analysis showed that heart tissue had regenerated in transplanted mice, but remained damaged in PBS-injected mice. Furthermore, trichrome staining revealed that the transplanted mice did not generate significant amount of scar tissue compared with PBS-injected control mice. In addition, the cardiac progenitor cells managed to survive and integrate with local cells in cell-injected heart tissue 14 days after transplantation. Most importantly, the transplanted cells did not exhibit tumorigenesis. In conclusion, cardiac progenitor cell transplantation produced a positive effect in a mouse model of myocardial ischemia.

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

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## Transplantation of mesenchymal stem cell-differentiated cardiac progenitor cells for myocardial injury

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F9), . \$ Qca\$ =, -\$' N)( , 1)' 7\$ /(98\$ EXE-\$ +(' +, (' 7\$ /9(\$ ) ( , 2-+., 2), )6925\$\*38, 2\$BEfZ\$G(' , -)\$1, 21' (\$1' ..-5\$, 27\$ \*', ()\$)6--3'\$-, 8+.' -\$K!\$ 7, 4-\$+9-)0( , 2-+., 2), )692\$3-0 62: \$T, -4\$U.3'\$Q' , : ' 2)\$AC2)(92D5\$/9..9=62: \$)\*\$ 8, 230 / , 1)3(' (d-\$ 62-)(31)692-\$1Lca\$ =, -\$ -42)\*' -6\$' 7\$ /(98\$ Qca\$ 3-62: \$)\*\$ R3+' (-1(6+)\$CC\$Q' &' (-'\$ F( , 2-1(6+), -'\$ AC2&6)(9: ' 2D5\$, 119(762: \$)9\$)\*\$ 8, 23/ , 1)3(' (d-\$ + (91' 0 73('>\$c' N)\$5\$XEQ\$ =, - \$+' /9(8' 7\$3-62: \$F, <\$Lca\$X90 .48' ( , -'\$ AF, ; , ( , 5\$ R\*6: , 5\$ p, +, 2D\$ F\* '\$ + (68' (-\$9/\$)\*\$ ' N, 862' 7\$: ' 2' -\$, ('\$.6-)' 7\$62\$5#J(&-%>\$

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Table 1. Primers of the examined genes

Gene	Primer	Ta	Cycles	Product size (bp)
hSox2	F: CAACGGCAGCTACAGCA	60°C	35	283 bp
	R: GGAGTGGGAGGAAGAGGT			
hOct4	F: TGGGGGTTCTATTGGGAAGG	60°C	35	193 bp
	R: GTTCGCTTCTCTTCGGGC			
hGAPDH	F: GTCAACGGATTGGTCGTATTG	60°C	35	139 bp
	R: CATGGGTGGAATCATATTGGAA			
mGAPDH	F: GCATGGACTGTGGTCATGAG	60°C	35	322 bp
	R:CCATCACCATCTTCAGGAG			

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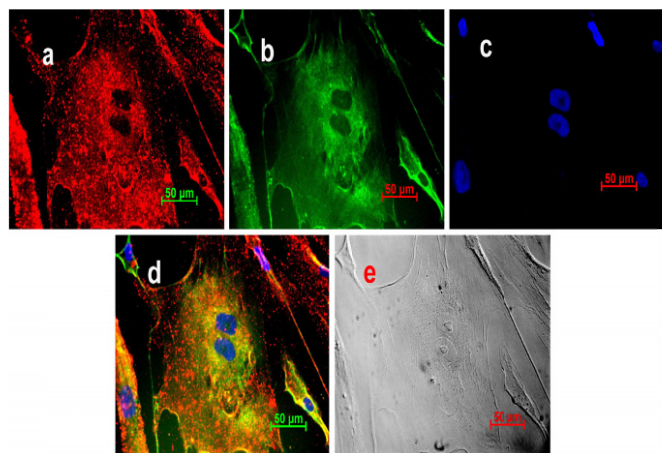
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## RESULTS

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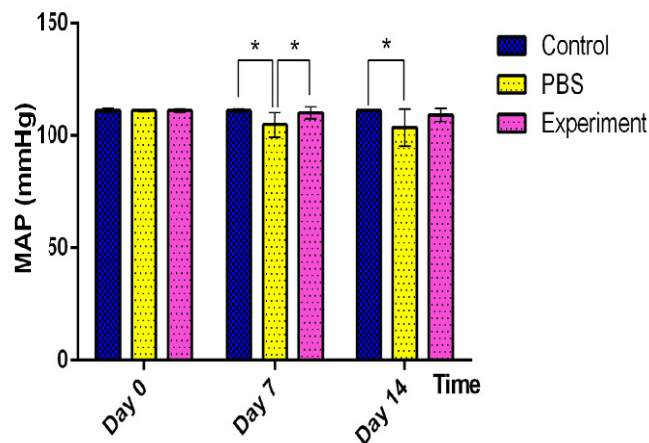
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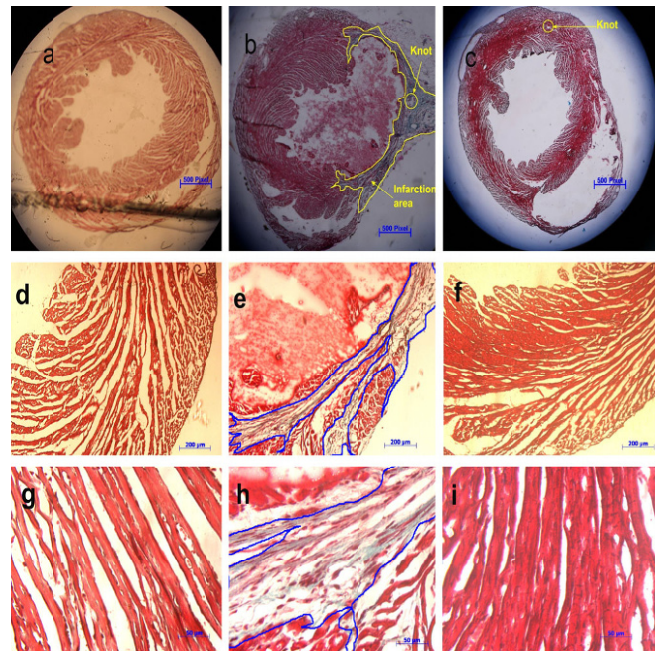
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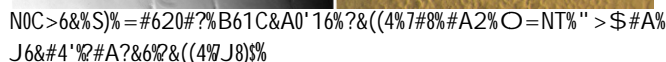
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## CONCLUSION

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## Acknowledgments

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## Ethical standard statements

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## Conflict of Interest

F\*\$' \$, 3)\*9(-\$\*, &' \$7' 1., (' 7\$)\*, )\$)\*' (' \$6-\$29\$192/.61)\$9/\$  
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## Open Access

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#### Cite this article as:

X\*, 85\$ F>\$ c: 34' 25\$ F>\$ U365\$ a>\$ X\*, 85\$ ?>\$ X\*, 25\$ c>\$ c: 34' 25\$ B>\$ n\$ X\*, 85\$ X>\$ AI JK#D>\$ X(' .6862, (4\$ ' &, .3, 0 )692\$ 9/\$ )(' , )8' 2)\$ ' //61, 14\$ 9/\$ 38G6.61, . \$ 19(7\$ G.9970 7' (6&' 7\$ 8' -' 21\*48, . \$-)' 8\$ 1' ..076//' (' 2)6, )' 7\$ 1, (76, 1\$ +(9: ' 26)9(\$ 1' ..-\$ 62\$, \$ 8491, (76, . \$ 62@3(4\$ 893-' \$ 897' . \$ ; !%4&1!0()#E&/&(, 0. #8" 1#- . &, (AB5\$ I AK I D\*\$! " #0! ! #>\$